

parte statement of any one, open letters and packages and hold their contents. Then the clause with regard to a guarantee was one which deserved careful consideration. While it held officials responsible for losses which might occur in the transmission of mails and empowered the Postmaster General to prosecute and recover the amount of the penalty stipulated in the bond, the clause contained the following proviso :—

But nothing herein contained shall be held to create any liability on the part of HER MAJESTY or the Postmaster General, to any person or parties whomsoever, to indemnify or hold harmless, pay or reimburse such person or party for the loss of any such money, goods, Chattels, or valuables or effects.

The Government might recover the money, but need not distribute it to those who had sustained loss. Without going into such a statement at all, the Government could deal with such cases. There were two or three other clauses to which he would refer at another time. With reference to the report, he considered that the information it contained was exceedingly valuable to the public. It was all very well to say that any one desiring information not contained in the report could get it on application at the Department, but the country at large could not obtain it in that way, and should have it in the report. He did not believe free delivery in cities was necessary. If it was to cost \$45,000 annually, and the revenue from newspaper postage was only \$25,000, he would prefer to have newspapers free.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—It is the law now to have free delivery.

Hon. J. H. CAMERON—It is not carried out, then.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE — Yes, partially.

Hon. J. H. CAMERON said it was in Montreal, and the House was now officially informed that it was to be carried out in other cities. This Bill was a step in the right direction. For making intercourse by mail easier and freer, the Postmaster General was entitled to the thanks of the country. If the Government had a teeming surplus and could afford to give free delivery in cities as well as to carry newspapers free, so much the better, but he would prefer the latter to the former.

Mr. YOUNG urged the Postmaster

Hon. J. H. Cameron.

General to carry newspapers free of postage. He regarded the Bill as a very valuable one, and he was sure it would be received with great satisfaction by the country. It was really absurd the condition of our postal laws in so far as connection with the United States was concerned. He had the honour of calling attention to this on a former occasion, and he was sure that, although there would be a small decrease of revenue by the new arrangement, the public would heartily approve of what the Postmaster General had done. He had practically thrown aside newspaper postage, but had left the fag end of it on the proprietors of country newspapers. He should have made the reform complete. The total amount received from newspaper postage last year was \$72,000. Two years ago, as shown by return that he (Mr. YOUNG) had called for, it was \$60,000, and it was stated by the Deputy Postmaster General that \$30,000 of that amount was supposed to have been received from newspapers sent direct from the office of publication. The total amount received from the same source last year, therefore, could not have been more than \$36,000. If the reduction in postage proposed by the Bill were applied to this amount, it would reduce it to such an extent that it would not be worth keeping an account of it. Twelve ordinary newspapers would weigh one pound, the postage of which would be one cent. The postage on weekly newspapers at present was about one-half a cent per newspaper. The reduction would, therefore, be about one-sixth, which would yield a revenue of some six thousand dollars. For such a small amount it was hardly worth while to keep accounts. A newspaper having a circulation of one thousand would pay about \$50 a year in postage, which would fall upon the publisher because it was simply impossible to get it from the subscribers. He was extremely doubtful, from his experience in the newspaper business, whether publishers would be able to increase their circulation sufficiently to make up his amount. Every one was interested in the improvement of our newspapers. This postage would have a tendency to induce publishers to use lighter paper which through weighing less would not have such a neat appearance as better and heavier qualities. He hoped the Postmaster General would remove the postage on newspapers altogether.